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Bell Hall to lose residents in Fall 2018 due to lack of parking

Katie O'Neal
Staff Writer

Residents are leaving Bell Hall because of the GC administration's decision to convert the 84 spaces in parking lot 13 by Wilkinson Street and Montgomery Street to an all-employee parking lot effective Fall 2018.

"I am moving," said junior Tyler Hooks, an economics and accounting major.

Hooks is a member of the Honors Program and has lived in Bell Hall for three years. He parks in lot 13, which, at a block away, is the only R-marked lot anywhere near his dorm. All other residential parking is located near the Centennial Center, a three-quarter mile walk from Bell.

So, Hooks will not spend his last year at GC in the dorm that has been his home since his first day on campus.

"The fact that the faculty-run senate was given the ability to vote on where faculty parks without any considerable student input that would actually have a meaningful change just says that the school doesn't care about us anymore," Hooks said.

Bell Hall is the only residential hall located on main campus. It houses the Honors Residential Learning Community, with a total of 190 available spaces for students to live.

"When a student lives on campus, they have everything at their fingertips," said Executive Director of University Housing Larry Christenson, according to the GCSU housing website. "From study groups and tutoring opportunities to social programs and the advice of someone who's been there before; on campus students have the full resources of the university just outside their door."

Residents currently have 841 spaces in which they can park around main campus. When the Wilkinson lot is converted into an all-employee lot, the remaining 757 resident parking spaces will be divided between the Centennial lot, which houses 447 spots; the Sallie Davis House lot, with 11 spots; the Depot South lot, with 170 spots; and the Foundation lot, with 129 spots.

Again, that makes a total of 757 spaces for the more than 1,600 students who hold residential parking permits each year.

And the nearly 200 students living in Bell Hall will be forced to walk 15 minutes across campus to reach a vehicle parked in the Centennial lot, or even farther if their cars are parked at the Sallie Ellis Davis House or the Depot.

This is a safety concern for students who will be forced to walk across campus in the dark to get to and from their vehicles if they decide to drive anywhere at nighttime.

"As a woman, even in the day, it's definitely a concern," said Maegan Stephens, a freshman and Spanish major. "And those worries increase as the sun goes down, especially with this long of a walk."

Although GC has other forms of transportation, such as SNAP and the Nightline shuttle, SNAP does not start running until 10 p.m., well after dark, and the Nightline shuttle does not stop at the Centennial parking lot.

"I like living [in Bell] because of the convenience, but almost the [entire reason] that I actually decided to be in the Honors Program was so I could live here [in Bell], but if I'd known coming in that we wouldn't have actually had parking, there's no way I would live here," said junior Becca Hendrix, an accounting major. "This is going to deter the incoming Honors students from staying, so when they realize they don't have anywhere to park their cars that's not over half a mile away, then they're not going to want to stay."

Over a year ago, the city of Milledgeville informed the university of its plan to reclaim management of the right-of-way parking in 43 spaces on North Liberty Street and North Wilkinson Street. These are city spaces that had been used by the university for a number of years through an understanding between the city and the university.

All the spaces being reclaimed by the city are designated employee parking spots. In March of last year, the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) came up with a plan to add employee parking to campus in order to make up for the pending loss of those right-of-way parking spaces on North Liberty and North Wilkinson.

This plan was also an attempt to go back to the principal GC adopted 10 years ago for allocation of parking in the heart of campus. According to the Parking and Transportation website, the principle states: "Parking in the heart of the central campus is primarily set aside for faculty and staff."

The Parking Task Force and the PTAC began this plan of updating campus parking by converting the Kilpatrick lot and the Adams lot to all-employee parking. Next on the list is to convert the Wilkinson lot, where the majority of Bell Hall residents park, to an all-employee lot.

"If and when the city reclaims management of [the right-of-way parking] spaces, the plan is that the university will convert the Wilkinson lot from shared resident and commuter to employee," said John Bowen, senior manager of Parking and Transportation Services. "Right now, if no other changes are made, [the residents who park there] will be parking in the resident parking around the Centennial area, and the commuter students will be expected to park in other commuter or perimeter lots on campus."

The parking task force drafted, proposed and voted on the plan last year. They voted 6 to 1 to approve. It was vetted through the

PTAC along with executive cabinets and university leadership who also approved the plan.

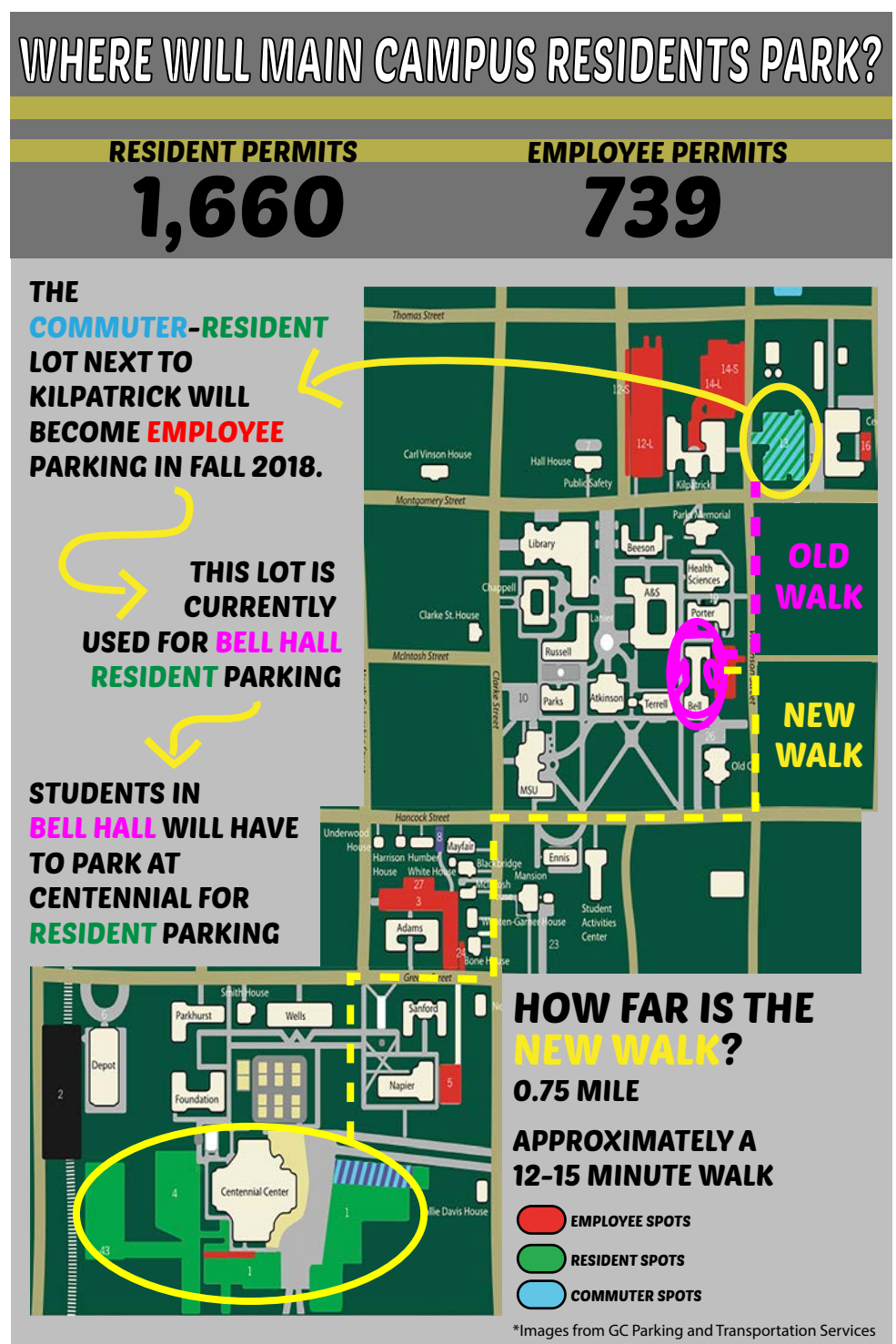
The PTAC consists of eight members: two faculty members from University Senate; two members from Staff Council; two members from Resident Student Association (RSA); and two members from Student Government Association (SGA), specifically commuter students since resident students are represented by RSA.

This committee was intentionally decided

to be eight members, an even number of students and staff, since votes made by the PTAC are not binding for decision-making.

At a forum about the parking situation held in Bell Hall on March 1, residents shared their opinions on the matter, but that didn't mean they felt heard.

"Every idea [discussed at the forum] without fail was explained exactly why it wouldn't work and completely discounted," Hooks said. "I do not believe anything is going to come of it."



Research suggests vaping as harmful as smoking cigarettes

Caroline Dietrich

Contributing Writer

Catrena Lisse, a GC chemistry professor, has conducted research over the past year which suggests that e-cigarettes could be just as bad, if not worse, than traditional cigarettes.

The experiments, conducted by students, have concluded that some e-cigarettes contain harmful toxins and greater amounts of nicotine, which can lead to severe addiction.

"I know we are a smoke free campus, but for the health of everyone, I think we should be a smoke and vape-free campus," Lisse said.

Lisse has been studying the effects of cigarettes for about 10 years. Recently, her undergraduate students have been researching the contents of e-cigarettes and vapor liquid to analyze how they affect the human body.

"[E-cigarette companies] are playing it off as a safer version of smoking," Lisse said. "We were honestly shocked that we found some of the stuff we found. We have found many similar chemicals as traditional cigarettes."

Most e-cigarettes are not as regulated as traditional tobacco, and users are exposed to many harmful, artificial toxins not advertised on the product labels.

Conducting these experiments in a smoke chamber, Lisse and her students found significant traces of xylene, benzene and spiro[2,4] hepta-4,6-diene, which are all known carcinogens.

They also found traces of 2,3-pentanedione and acetoin, extremely harmful chemicals which can cause medical conditions like bronchitis obliterans, also known as "popcorn lung," in the vapors tested.

"We contacted the CDC

because they regulate cigarettes in the division of tobacco, and they monitor the different chemicals coming off of cigarettes, but no one was really monitoring e-cigarettes until recently," Lisse said.

In 2016, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Surgeon General issued a report concluding that "e-cigarette use among U.S. youth and young adults is now a major public health concern...growing 900 percent from 2011 to 2015."

The CDC Surgeon General also stated that "e-cigarette companies appear to be using many of the advertising tactics the tobacco industry used to persuade a new generation of young people to use their products."

E-cigarettes were supposed to provide a healthier alternative to help adults quit smoking. However, aside from the toxins, addiction may be an even greater risk for e-cigarette users.

Freshman Matt Bostick, who struggled with tobacco addiction, began using e-cigarettes in October as a way to quit smoking.

"I thought it would be a better and safer alternative to smoking, and I haven't picked up a cigarette since," Bostick said. "But when I first got it, I used it way too much. I would go through a pod a day, which is the equivalent of a whole pack of cigarettes."

Vapor does not damage the lungs as severely as smoke, but the harmful toxins and higher nicotine levels are a tradeoff, not a solution.

"As dangerous as tobacco smoking is, honestly, I would think vaping is just as bad, if not worse, because you are getting all the different flavors that are masking what is actually in it," Lisse said. "Nicotine is a known addictive drug, and so, by consuming more, you will want more, and it's going to be a lot harder to stop."

Freshman George Dunwody, who uses a brand called JUUL, said, "It's convenient compared to stuff

like a vape or cigarettes because you can fit it in your pocket and use it pretty leisurely. They offer different flavors and have more variety."

One of Lisse's concerns was that she didn't think that people knew or understood the health effects of these products. However, Dunwody disagreed, explaining that people will always do things that are not necessarily good for them.

"I think it has negative impacts on your health but not as severely as people may think it will," Dunwody said. "People will drink knowing it's bad for them or eat unhealthy knowing it's bad for them."

Products like JUUL claim to be free of toxins like 2,3-pentanedione and acetoin that cause popcorn lung, yet their ingredients still list things like benzoic acid, which causes health problems such as irritation of the skin, nose and throat. When inhaled, it will cause coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

These products are still relatively new, and long-term effects are still unknown.



Caroline Dietrich / Contributing Photographer

Lisse holds the vape pen inside the GC smoke chamber.



Caroline Dietrich / Contributing Photographer

GC chemistry students built the smoke chamber Lisse used in her research.

International Club president preps for International Dinner

**Emmy
Cooper**
Staff Writer

With her cheery personality, passionate spirit and contagious laugh, international student Sara Toro is an energetic contribution to the GC community.

Living over 5,000 miles away from home, Toro is in her senior year at GC. Toro was born in Albania and first moved away from home when she was 15.

"I went to high school in Italy and lived there for four years," Toro said. "So the move from Albania to the U.S. was not hard because I was used to being away from my family."

After deciding to move to the U.S., Toro was excited to start something new.

"I was so shocked of how people were so nice here in the U.S.," Toro said. "When I first came here, people were so interested in the fact I was from Albania, and I loved that."

In her free time, Toro visits with other GC international students to make them feel welcome. She said she felt so accepted when she first came to GC, so she wants other international students to have the same experience she did.

"When I first came here, people were so interested in the fact that I was from Albania, and I loved that."

Sara Toro

Tanvi Lonkar, an international student from Mumbai, met Toro at their freshman year international student orientation.

"We became really good friends a year later, and now we are basically family," Lonkar said. "We've been through everything together also because we are not only the same major, but we have a lot of other things in common."



Madi Harty / Staff Photographer

Toro is passionate about expanding services to help individuals with mental health issues.

Toro is also the president of GC's International Club and works as a diversity peer educator at GC.

"I want people to be accepting of other people, and I want people to be open-minded of those who are different," she said.

Toro helps plan all the International Club's events, but she has been working especially hard all year for the upcoming International Dinner.

"It's a lot of planning and a lot of work," Toro said. "I am taking care of MC and the talent part of the show, but there is so much to it like decorations, fashion show and the food."

Psychology professor and International Office Director Tsu-Ming Chiang has worked closely with Toro during her time at GC.

"Sara is a bright young lady," Chiang

said. "In my classes, she always expresses her thoughts and opinions when we talk about issues."

Chiang said she can see the impact Toro has on other students in her classes.

"She has added a lot of valuable cultural observations to the classes that I teach, and I teach psychology courses, so global issues and cultural comparisons are often made," Chiang said. "She was valuable in providing insights and thoughts, which stimulates lots of thoughts and ideas from when her peers ask questions."

Toro is majoring in psychology and eventually wants to become a clinical psychologist.

"I am very passionate about mental health," she said. "I have had several experiences in my life with people who have

struggled. It was so hurtful for me to see how much they were judged for it and how little help they would get."

According to Toro, the lack of care for mental health in Albania is shocking.

"Mental health in Albania is not where it should be," Toro said. "It's crazy about how different of services they would receive in the U.S. and how different their lives would be."

After graduation, Toro plans on applying for an occupational practical training (OPT) to stay in the U.S. and attend graduate school. But for now, Toro said her favorite thing about GC is the college life.

"Here, there is a sense of campus community," she said. "I love that there is always something to do, and if there is not, you can come up with something, and I think that is amazing."

How to win a Fulbright award: Professor edition

Patrick Steimer
Staff Writer

Kerry Neville, GC author and English professor, was recently awarded the prestigious Fulbright Foreign Scholarship to teach creative writing in Ireland.

Neville will travel to the U.K. this fall where she will teach at the University of Limerick's creative writing program.

Neville is the author of two award-winning short-story collections. Her first collection, titled "Necessary Lies," has been featured in publications such as the Washington Post and the Huffington Post. Her second publication, "Remember to Forget Me," came out in October 2017. She is currently working on writing her personal memoir.

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has offered grants to both students and professors in over 155 countries. Professors interested in applying for a Fulbright must consider five major steps when applying.

Step 1: Choose a country.

There are many options to choose from when considering which country to apply to, but it's best to choose one with a personal connection.

"I chose Ireland because of my connection to that university and to the faculty there," Neville said.

A year ago, Neville travelled to Ireland and led a writing discussion at Dublin's famous Trinity College. Neville has also facilitated a community writing workshop at the University of Limerick, which led to her being asked to teach at Limerick's Summer Writing Program at NYU.

"It's a beautiful place," Neville said. "My family and ancestors are from Ireland, so it was sort of a natural fit for me in terms of applying."

Step 2: Achieve letters of recommendation and invitation.

Professors applying for a Fulbright are required to submit three letters of recommendation. These might come from department chairs, deans or colleagues who can advocate for the person's teaching abilities and past accomplishments. Most importantly, professors are required to have a letter of invitation from their host university.

"I have colleagues who I've worked with in the creative writing program at the University of Limerick, and the director of that program wrote me a letter outlining what he hoped I could bring to the program," Neville said.

Step 3: Write a detailed personal statement and project proposal.

Having a convincing personal statement and project proposal is the most important element of a Fulbright application.

"These are really about how you're prepared to do this grant, and also how it's going to help you fulfill your professional and academic goals," said GC National Scholarship Coordinator Anna Whiteside.

In Neville's project proposal, she outlined her teaching abilities, plans inside the classroom, how she would contribute to the Limerick community and what she plans to bring home to GC. Her proposal also included a plan to research her ancestral heritage for her memoir and facilitate community writing workshops around ending mental health stigma.

"Having a specific, rather than a general idea of why that particular country, why that particular institution and what I could bring to all of [it], I think is the reason why I made it through," Neville said.

Step 4: Research a foreign language.

While not required, having some familiarity with a foreign language is a big advantage for applicants and can make academic and cultural exchanges more meaningful. During her Ph.D. program, Neville studied Irish Gaelic, a Celtic language still spoken along the west coast of

STEPS TO WINNING A FULBRIGHT

1

CHOOSE A COUNTRY TO APPLY TO

2

ACHIEVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND INVITATION

3

WRITE A DETAILED PERSONAL STATEMENT AND PROJECT PROPOSAL

4

RESEARCH A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

5

THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE GOALS

Rachael Alesia / Assistant Graphic Designer

Ireland.

"I've forgotten most of it, but I'm going to undertake a study again in the next couple of months to try to at least know some words and key phrases," Neville said.

Gaelic is only spoken by a small minority of Irish today, but many road signs still use the language, as well as some TV and radio stations. Putting in a few months of language research before traveling abroad can help lessen culture shock and make daily life easier.

Step 5: Think about your future goals.

There are plenty of great

reasons to apply for a Fulbright, but applying simply to travel and sightsee will usually result in an unsuccessful application.

"You [have] to be really passionate about the country," Whiteside said. "Fulbright doesn't want to give these grants to people just for fun; they want to know how it's going to change your life."

For Neville, the chance to teach in Ireland will help her make connections that will impact the rest of her teaching career.

"Really think about how it could impact your future plans and think about what you're bringing to the Fulbright," Neville said. "A lot of

people would like to work in an overseas capacity, but [ask yourself] what is it that you can specifically offer in that experience."

While Neville's students will miss having her on campus next semester, the University of Limerick will be gaining a dedicated writer and professor.

"There's no way she's going to leave there and not make an impact on those students," said junior Beth Renfrow, an English creative writing major. "She is an amazing professor, and I can't wait for students in [Ireland] to get to experience that."



UNSUNG HEROES

Thomas Wilkerson

**Wilson
Roberts**
Staff Writer

Any student who has had their picture taken in the GC Bobcat Card Office knows about the Marvel action figure collection tucked away in a corner. Students stopping by for an ID card are often drawn to the colorful collection where characters like Spiderman and Venom stand side by side.

The action figures are the pride of Bobcat Card Office Technician Thomas Wilkerson, who maintains and often adds to his collection. He's delighted when someone takes an interest.

"It really means a lot to me that other people are so passionate about something I am so passionate about," Wilkerson said.

Wilkerson's co-worker Keeno Weaver has witnessed the pack of superheroes grow over time.

"His collection started off as one or two figures on his desk," Weaver said with a laugh. "Over time, it has become what it is today: a collection that takes up a whole bookshelf."

Born in Glascock County, about an hour away from Augusta, Wilkerson was often criticized for his love of comic books while growing up.

"I grew up in a small rural town in Georgia," Wilkerson said. "There were

about 20 people in my graduating class in high school, and all of them liked to hunt and fish. I enjoyed reading comic books, so I was considered the 'grade school nerd.'"

After graduation, he chose to attend GC for college, in part because of its size.

"It is a small school, and I grew up in a small town, so it felt kind of like my home," Wilkerson said.

He started at GC as a freshman in 2000 and graduated in 2005. While attending, he decided he wanted to stay and build a career at GC.

Wilkerson worked for a year in private probation before working as a shuttle driver for eight years. Eventually, he applied for a job at the Bobcat Card Office alongside his friend Weaver.

As Bobcat Card Office technicians, the two deal not only with the Bobcat Cards, but they also have many other responsibilities like hosting a lost-and-found in their little office, directing students and answering any questions they might have.

"We deal with all Bobcat Card issues, as well as many others most people don't know about," Wilkerson said. "We work on the registers, vending machines, meal plans and door access. We are the gears that make the machine work."

Weaver agreed.

"If we are doing our job, you never know because you expect it to work," Weaver said. "When we don't do our jobs right, that is when you notice, and things start to fall apart."

The lack of recognition doesn't bother



Patrick Steimer / Staff Photographer

Students love Wilkerson's Marvel Comics action figures collection.

Wilkerson, though, since recognition isn't why he does his job.

"I stay at GC because it is the kind of place where if you have a problem and ask anyone here, they would be willing to help," Wilkerson said. "Also, GC has helped me break out of my shell since I talk to people all day every day, which has made me more sociable."

While he may love these aspects of his job, what really inspires Wilkerson to keep going is watching the students grow.

"I have been at GC for a long time and watching the students grow up over the four years they are here is what really keeps me here," Wilkerson said. "There are students that hang out with us every day, and watching them change over the years is what I really love. If one of those students [is] graduating, I'll go and watch them walk."

Sophomore Megan Pike, an exercise science major, said her brief encounter with Wilkerson a few weeks before left a lasting impression on her.

"I was getting a new picture for my Bobcat Card," Pike said. "As I was taking the picture, I saw the collection and started talking to him about it. He was really nice and answered any questions I had about them, since I don't know much about superheroes besides what I see in movies. It was refreshing after a stressful day."

While to many these qualities are what define Wilkerson, some only know him for his action figure collection in his office. While students tend to love his collection, other GC staff didn't care for it at first.

"The students would see the figures and talk to Thomas about them, but some of the staff seemed to dislike the growing number of figures on the desk," Weaver said. "I actually went out and bought him the shelf that all

of his figures are on because I felt it was important to support his hobby."

A former student who took a particular liking to the collection was outraged when she thought they were taken away.

"One student in particular took a liking to the figures," Weaver said. "Once the figures were moved to the bookshelf and they weren't in their regular spot, she started saying that she would talk to the president of the college to get them back."

Wilkerson said he appreciates that kind of enthusiasm for his hobby. While he enjoys almost all comics, he has one particular favorite.

"My favorite comic book is 'The Hulk,'" Wilkerson said. "'The Hulk' is my favorite because of his duality. On one side, you have the reserved, genius scientist, and on the other, you have a savage brute. It is relatable to everyone because he represents both sides of humanity, depending on what form he is in."

While not working or adding to his collection, Wilkerson occupies his time with other activities like reading, painting, collecting vinyl records and playing video games. Some of his favorite books are those by Stephen King because they are imaginative, and make readers think. He likes open-world games, like Skyrim and Fallout, for a similar reason.

However, Wilkerson said collecting action figures is his most meaningful hobby.

"I grew up reading comic books," Wilkerson said. "I loved comics because they allowed me to dream about becoming something I never could be, in this case a superhero. However, just because I couldn't be one didn't mean I didn't try to be one. Comic books [have] made me try to be the best person I can possibly be."

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The reality of recruiting: How small schools dominate

Isaiah Smith
Co-Sports Editor

On a damp, uninspiring Mother's Day weekend, GC women's basketball head coach Maurice Smith trudged to campus.

Braving the rain and leaving his wife and two daughters at home, the head coach headed to the office for a visit with a prospective recruit from Illinois named Erin Drynan.

This was the only weekend Drynan, a recruit with Division I offers, could come to GC to take her only tour of a Division II school.

"Nobody was here on campus, and it rained all weekend long," Smith said.

For Smith, the deck was stacked against him. But as Drynan's tour began, several members of the GC community came out and welcomed her to campus.

And to make a long story short, the 6-foot-2-inch forward from Chicago eventually committed to GC.

In recruiting, stories like Drynan's are ones many college athletes will experience.

According to Next College Student Athlete, or NCSA, Division I schools only offer full-ride scholarships to 1 percent of the seven million student-athletes competing in high school.

Most collegiate student-athletes compete at either the Division II, Division III, NAIA or junior college levels. This means that these smaller schools are doing the most recruiting.

And many do not have the manpower or money of their larger counterparts to attract top-tier talent.

GC's total recruiting budget in 2017 was \$12,789, a figure so small that coaches often come out of their own pockets to finance recruiting trips.

"A lot of times coaches go in their own cars, use their own gas and buy their own meals," said Jimmy Wilson, GC's associate

athletic director. "A lot of it is not reported because we don't have the budget to do it."

GC men's assistant basketball coach Ryan Aquino pointed out that recruiting can require much time away from home. As a graduate assistant, Aquino said he drove out west four or five times each year to Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, Nebraska and Colorado in search of potential future Bobcats.

That was before the men's program committed to scouring Georgia and the Southeast region for talent by spending time in the summer watching travel ball games.

"Coach Gainous and myself will go to an event and be there at 8 a.m. on Thursday and stay until 8 p.m. Thursday night and do the same thing Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday," said Aquino, recruiting coordinator for the men's team. "We do that two or three times in the month of July, and we'll also do it in April sometimes. It's a lot, but it's the best way to see the most number of kids."

Though playing on teams outside of high school requires a great time commitment

from players, many say it gives them the best chance to be seen and pursued by the highest number college coaches.

"[Playing travel ball] helps a lot," said GC softball player Caroline Snider. "Travel ball definitely gets your name out there because your coaches are emailing for you and talking for you as well. Some teams make brochures and stuff that they'll hang outside the dugout, so coaches can pick up your profile."

Aside from talent, many other factors help determine whether coaches at GC will pursue a player.

"We're big in high-character," Smith said. "It doesn't matter how talented you are. If the character isn't there, we're not interested."

Smith said he pays particular attention to how players respond in the fourth quarter because that's when traits like discipline, coachability and being a good teammate are revealed.

Along with valuing high-character individuals, GC baseball head coach Jason Eller said he values multi-sport athletes.

The final attribute that GC coaches seek is academic excellence.

"One thing that separates us from other schools is that we really hone in on the academics," said GC head men's basketball coach Mark Gainous.

Gainous said GC reaps financial benefits from recruiting academically superior athletes who qualify for the HOPE scholarship.

"Say it costs \$20,000 per year to go to school, and HOPE is going to provide you \$9,000 of it," Wilson said. "Then we've only got \$11,000 to try to make up if we're going to give you a full ride. That's how the HOPE scholarship helps because we have a smaller gap to fill."

After coaches identify a player who meets their standards, many feel there is a high chance of winning a recruit if they can do one thing: get them on campus.

"For every 10 prospects we bring in and offer them an opportunity, we get about nine out of 10," Eller said. "That says a lot about GC, our campus, our community, our professors and our students."

Smith echoed that sentiment.

"We talk very little basketball," Smith said. "80 percent of our visit is the other stuff. It's academics, the various organizations on campus, housing and the family-type environment. It's all that stuff we sell."

For many recruits, like Drynan, this is what convinces them that GC is the best place to continue their academic and athletic careers.

"That GC genuineness—that's what sells," said assistant women's basketball coach Jeremy Mayweather. "Everybody wants to make sure these kids are coming in and excelling. It's an awesome place to be."



Baseball and softball: What's the difference?

Elyssa Gerber
Staff Writer

Baseball and softball look very similar from the outside. However, there are obvious discrepancies between the two, such as the size of the field, the size of the ball and the distance from the pitcher's area to home plate.

Though there are different aspects to each game, the blueprints of both are similar.

"In my opinion, there is not a huge difference between softball and baseball," said senior Jessica Hayles, a softball player. "You still play the game three outs, three strikes to get what you need to do done. Outfielders play similar games: see ball, catch ball, throw ball. And the infielders also play closely related games."

According to baseball head coach Jason Eller, pitching is the biggest difference between the two sports. Softball's pitching is underhand while baseball's pitching is overhand.

In softball, the pitcher throws from a level that is equal to that of the hitter, while in baseball the pitcher throws from an elevated mound.

There is also a pitch limit in baseball that does not apply to softball players.

"[Baseball players] can only throw so many pitches where our pitcher could play three games in a row," said softball head coach Jamie Grodecki. "The duration from our pitchers is different because we can do more solely because of the motion. Our base running game, as well as theirs, is based off of the pitchers."

Pitching differences lead to softball moving at a quicker pace. On the softball field, the game is faster due to the tighter space and shorter reaction time. It also typically has seven innings while baseball typically has nine.

"[The softball] game is played at a lot faster pace in my opinion," Eller said. "They are on top of each other with the dimensions of the field. I enjoy watching them play because they keep their fans engaged."

Along with the game moving faster, softball players often employ different strategies to have success.

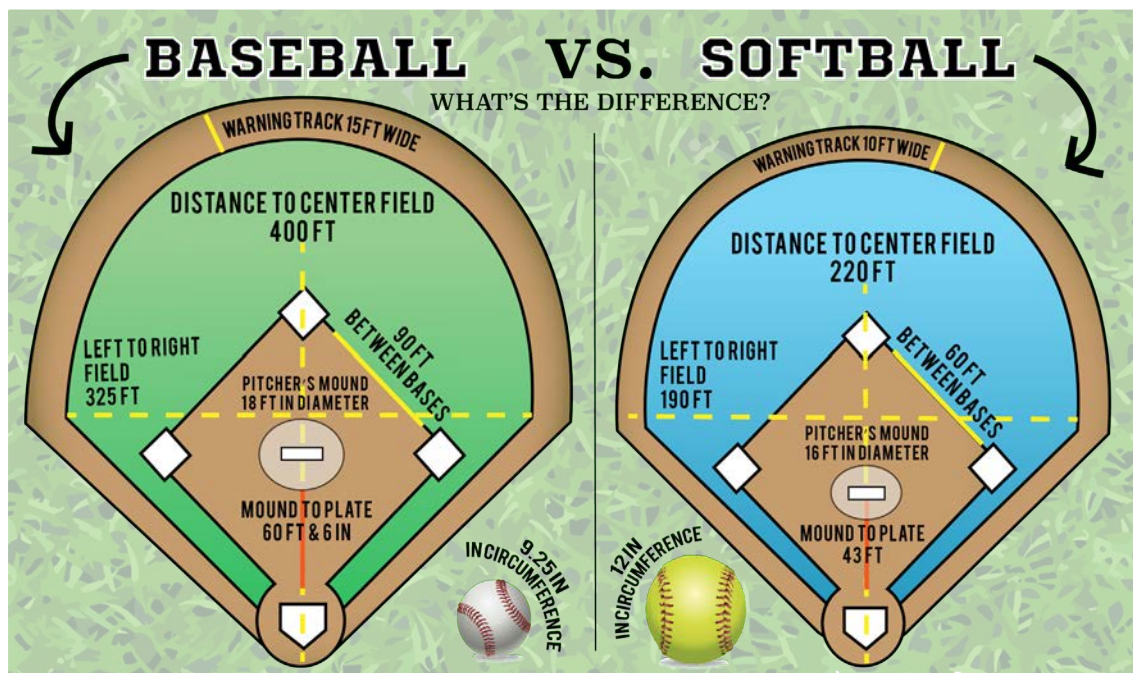
"It's different styles, and you can hit-run a lot more in softball," said senior

Brandon Purcell, a baseball player.

Lastly, the major difference is the size of the ball. The balls look very similar, but the softball is much larger.

Despite the differences in the game, both the coaches and players of both teams seem to think that the overall skills required from both sports are similar.

"We play more of a short game than baseball, with the bunting, slapping and station to station hitting," Grodecki said. "I do not think one sport is more difficult than the other. I would say on an entertainment factor, softball may gain more interest from people who like to watch a game move a little bit faster."



Kristen Pack / Graphic Designer

Eller brings championship culture back to GC

Alex Jones
Staff Writer

After a conference championship in 2017, the GC baseball team has set their eyes on nothing less for the 2018 season. This year, the Bobcats have erupted with an 8-1 start in Peach Belt Conference play, continuing to exemplify why they are the top team in the PBC.

"Last year was special when we went 35-15 and won the conference championship," said head coach Jason Eller. "We led the nation in hitting and doubles for

all of NCAA."

That statistic dictates not only Division II but all three divisions of the NCAA.

The winning nature of the baseball program is historic, but the success has continued since the hire of Eller, who led the Bobcats to a conference championship in his first year.

"Coach Eller has a positive attitude that is infectious to the coaches and the players," said athletic director Wendell Staton. "He is a high-energy, can-do kind of guy that people want to be around."

Family ties and history led Eller to accept the head coaching job at GC,

and meshed perfectly with the program. Before coming to GC, Eller was head coach at Augusta University where his record was 66-81. Since coming to GC, his record is 44-20.

Eller embodies the ideal that no feat is too difficult to overcome. He takes everything in stride and is constantly finding solutions.

"He doesn't see adversity as obstacles but opportunities," Staton said. "That's something that carries over into the coaching staff and the team members."

Every coach's expectation is to build a successful program and a championship team. It

all starts with the recruits and the coaching staff.

"The player-coach relationship is a big factor in success," Eller said. "It's all about surrounding yourself with a great coaching staff and recruiting the right players that fit the programs credentials."

The winning attitude Eller implements into the team is more than just baseball. He inspires the players to lead the team themselves.

"He preaches fundamentals and accountability," said senior Brandon Purcell. "He wants the program to be led by the players."

According to Purcell, Eller's coaching style differs from the

baseball coach before him. Purcell, a redshirt sophomore, played for one year under the previous coaching staff.

"[Eller's] more of a manager who has a positive outlook on everything and that's different than the coach previously," Purcell said. "His system can be implemented anywhere, and he can win."

For freshman and sophomore players on the team, Eller is the only coach they have ever known at GC, and he has already made his impressionable mark on them.

"He cares about everyone so much, and he wants to do what's best for the team,"



Christian Brook / Staff Photographer

In his first season, Eller (left) brought a PBC tournament championship to GC.

said sophomore Cal Gentry. "Our team is a brotherhood, and our chemistry is a product of what coach Eller has molded us to be."

Eller said he loves the players, his job and everything GC offers.

It's his home, and he couldn't be happier to be a part of the Bobcats.

"It's a blast to coach at a baseball school like GC," Eller said. "There's nothing like it. My job is as awesome as Kirby Smart's."

Brockway sets standard for the Bobcat volleyball

**Caroline
Snider**
Staff Writer

Kayla Brockway is a 5-foot-8-inch GC volleyball player majoring in athletic training. She has won many awards at GC, including 2017 PBC Setter of the Year, 2017 PBC All-Tournament Team and the 2016 PBC All-Academic Team.

The Jacksonville, Florida native went to high school at Providence School.

Brockway plays under head coach Gretchen Krumdieck who credits Brockway as a good leader and captain because of her positive attitude and competitive nature on the court.

Brockway attributed her success and motivation to her parents and teammates.

"My parents are the biggest inspiration in my life," Brockway said. "They are always working hard and supporting me. My team always pushes me to do better. They expect the best out of me like I expect the best out of them."

Brockway's position on the court is the setter. She plays an important role by assisting her teammates to score. Krumdieck said the setter is very similar to the quarterback of the team.

"Kayla is who I communicate with the most from the sidelines," Krumdieck said. "She's the one who figures out what is going on during the match and what is going to work based on what the other team is doing from the blocking aspect."

The position of setter requires Brockway to have an impressive court awareness and read and understand each of her teammates.

"Her job is really difficult because certain players hit higher or reach higher than others, so she has to know how to set every single person, and all the hitters have to trust her," Krumdieck explained. "The hitters have one person to worry about while Brockway has eight people."

According to Krumdieck, Brockway has a high volleyball IQ and a good feel for the game. Brockway posted 3.21 digs per set on the court last season, giving her a total of 954 digs in three years.

Brockway's busy schedule with weightlifting, conditioning, practice and class can be strenuous, but teammate Taylor Svehla said Brockway always makes time to come to work outs and practice and to check on her teammates.

Regardless of the situation on or off the court, Svehla said Brockway is very level-headed and brings a solid energy to the team.

"She makes calculated moves and risks during the game," Svehla said. "She's a really good teammate, and a lot of the girls on the

team look up to her to see an example of what a good teammate and volleyball player she is."

Since her teammate and close friend Chandler Ewaldsen finished her last season as a senior on the volleyball court, Brockway looks forward to working with freshman Libby Bochniak.

"Libby is definitely someone I can always count on," Brockway said. "She made a huge impact this season as a freshman. I can tell all she is going to do is good for the team."

Krumdieck has high expectations for Brockway this upcoming season.

"I want to see the exact same thing out of Kayla," Krumdieck said. "When she came here she was already a really good setter, so we didn't have to fix a lot."

Her expectations for Brockway include maintaining the high level of intensity, having a great court awareness and doing her homework by watching game film.

In the past four years, Brockway has been the only setter on the team with no back up. Brockway said her volleyball skills have improved by simply getting the experience of playing time. Since she was the only setter, she got numerous reps every day at practice.

"Now that we will have another setter, I think she will push me more, and we will push each other to make us better," Brockway said.

Brockway's personal goals for her final season are to make time for extra reps and



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Brockway enters her senior season looking to lead the Bobcats.

for her team to make it to nationals.

The team is working hard during their offseason to get stronger and faster to achieve the skills needed on the volleyball court.

"Each week, we are lifting three days and conditioning two days," Brockway said. "We are doing quick agilities that will carry over and relate to volleyball."

Brockway hopes the hard work will pay off, so the volleyball team can bring home a national championship to GC.

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3 AND OUT
THE COLONNADE'S SPORT PODCAST

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The Colonnade's sports editors, Isaiah Smith and Chris Lambert, will be debuting their first podcast Thursday, March 1, on gcsucolonnade.com

C A B A R E T

Madi Brillhart
Contributing Writer

As patrons young and old filled Russell Auditorium on Wednesday night, hope and excitement were high. With a long-standing reputation preceding the Tony award-winning musical, GC's production of "Cabaret" drew an impressive crowd for its opening night.

Students and faculty alike gathered in the theater. Frequent theater supporter Estefi Herrera reflected the mood of the crowd as she stated that she expected "high energy and high talent" from Wednesday's performance.

Erin Lopez, who had seen a handful of GC productions, replied similarly.

"I expect to see the same caliber of performance as I have seen [from other productions]: good music, great dancing, a good stage performance. I never leave a GCSU production disappointed," Lopez said.

After a brief but entertaining "warm-up" from the Cabaret girls and boys, director Karen Berman introduced herself and the stage crew. The house lights dimmed, and the stage was

immediately brimming with action and seductive music as the opening chords of the first musical number, "Willkommen," flooded the theatre. The initial energy of the master of ceremonies, Joshua Shepherd, radiated throughout the Cabaret dancers and was truly infectious throughout the entire performance.

The plot develops quickly and effectively as the audience is introduced to aspiring novelist Clifford Bradshaw arriving in 1931 Berlin with the intentions to write a novel. He is immediately exposed to the racy Kit Kat Klub, featuring an enticing Sally Bowles who steals the affections of Clifford.

While struggling in almost every aspect of his life, Clifford accepts an odd job from Ernst Ludwig, whom he had previously met on the train to Berlin. The details of the job go unmentioned, but it is soon evident that Ernst and his "jobs" have some underground political implications and Cliff becomes uncomfortable with his involvement.

Cliff and Sally's relationship comes to a crossroads when she discovers that she's pregnant, which is heightened by the sudden engagement of the German innkeeper, Fraulein

Schneider, and the Jewish fruit-shop owner, Herr Schultz.

The beginning strands of "Maybe This Time" punctuate the increasing tensions as the stage and background marquee sign reading "KABARETT" illuminate Sally's gripping performance. Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz's engagement party highlights the Nazi undertones that have been present throughout Act I, working as a turning point in the plot as the guests sing "Tomorrow Belongs To Me" while Ernst sports a swastika armband.

Act II features a slightly faster pace as the true conflict of the plot is further revealed and developed. The setting and time period of the scenes become the most important detail in the plot, and the cabaret dancers' costumes, while before mimicking the upbeat and decorative set and musical numbers, now reflect the somber mood of the second act.

Clifford decides to leave Berlin upon realizing the political corruption and blatant ignorance shown by his new friends and expects Sally to realize this as well and go with him. It is evident



that the "party" from the first act is over and that the characters desperately need to face what's going on around them, which they reject. The conclusion of the show is absolutely chilling as the once cheery characters walk in single file, shoulders slumped and feet dragging, across the stage.

The master of ceremonies looking on the audience adds to the disturbing concentration-camp imagery as he oversees the characters filing into the back doors, one by one. Sally gives one final look over her shoulder before she, too, leaves through the back doors, which slam as the lights go dark. As

a final political stab, the master of ceremonies strips off his uniform to reveal a striped prisoner outfit. The implications of the final scene are heavy with despair and an artistic foreshadowing to the destruction the Nazi party will bring in Germany.

Overall, the performance was absolutely phenomenal. Each character contributed to the excitement, anxiety and heartbreak that was portrayed through the beautifully executed musical numbers. At the conclusion of the performance, audience members Herrera and Lopez both agreed that the talent seen in "Cabaret" exceeded their expectations.

GC student Spencer Slaton, who had previously seen the show performed on Broadway, agreed that the cast "did an excellent job of portraying the political tumult and edgy personas that characterize the story."

In addition, the intricate set, costumes, makeup and lighting sequences each contributed immensely to the general perception, looking truly professional.

The GC Department of Theatre and Dance rarely disappoints, and with this equally entertaining and disturbing production, it will be difficult to resist returning each night the cast is performing.



One of the major set pieces for "Cabaret."

Hetty Bishop / Staff Photographer

REAL MOVEMENT, REAL FRIENDS

**Haley
Martin**

Contributing Writer

The Real Movement (TRM) started at Georgia State University and expanded to other colleges in Georgia, aiming to bring students together in a comfortable environment to meet new people and make long lasting friendships.

"The goal of the movement is to create an inquisitive environment for secure vulnerability," said Olivia Kolkana, leader of TRM at GC. "It is for people to feel safe and loved on. No matter what people are going through, their background or where they're from, people feel comfortable here and meet new people."

The Real Movement helps

students build deeper friendships. If any student is going through a rough patch, or if someone just wants to meet new people, the movement is the perfect space for them. Any student can join the movement; TRM welcomes everyone.

"I love how it creates a unique space that isn't made by any other organization," said sophomore Sara Turner. "We created this to tell people they are loved regardless of who they are."

TRM's events take place on Tuesday nights at 7:30. The event includes free food, music and games. For the first half of the event, people mingle, talk and meet new people. During the second half of the event, TRM breaks people into groups to get to know each other.

The goal is to have a different series for each week. For example, last week, on Tuesday, Feb. 27, the night was about the show "Friends." By going every week, students see

the same people and get to know them better.

The movement believes in being loving towards everyone and in everyone being able to voice their opinions. It is a great way to meet people and become involved in a organization. It is a place for people to feel comfortable and to be yourself.

"I think it's an awesome place that you don't get at most college campuses," said TRM representative Jack Coning. "It's really unique because there is no other place like it on campus."

The movement started five years ago by two students from Georgia State University and University of Georgia. As it slowly gained popularity, students talked to people from other campuses to spread the movement. Now, the movement is in all Atlanta campuses and continuing to spread.

The leader of GC's TRM,



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

The leaders of The Real Movement at their most recent gathering.

Kolkana, reached out to the founders of the movement, asking if they would want to start a branch at her campus. At the time, she had no intention of becoming the leader of the movement at GC.

However, now she loves running the movement with the help of other representatives. They work together

to make the movement successful, saying that they all are extremely excited to see the movement grow.

"I think it's unique because it's all inclusive," Kolkana said. "We aren't trying to gear it to one group of students. It's for everyone and anyone."

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**Kaylin
Martinko**

Arts & Life Co-Editor

The Rekindle Women's Gathering consisted of nearly 500 donuts from Ryals' Bakery, a day-long front campus picnic and a whole lot of encouragement.

Dreamt up by GC's Wesley Foundation and their Women's

Ministry Team, the two-day event had one goal in mind: to bring the women of GC together in pursuing their passions.

After a night of music and fellowship on Friday, March 2, the Rekindle event was held all day Saturday, March 3. The event featured three breakout session choices, a panel on branding yourself on social media and a PB&J picnic.

The breakouts included three

how-to sessions: how to watercolor, how to bake and how to put on makeup while not spending too much. The breakouts allowed attendees to learn from student "experts" and then do a little practice of their own, intending to show attendants that passions and talents can arise in a variety of ways.

"It's about creating a community of people who know their worth and are creative in their passions and talents," said GMC student Tori Easter.

Junior nursing major Kate Hensley called the event a "dream session" to boldly state your seemingly unreachable dreams and be held accountable in chasing them.

As women arrived Saturday morning wearing their "You Were Made For This" event t-shirts, they were met with hot coffee and donuts. They selected name tags with encouraging words on

them, each choosing one that they thought defined them. Some options were "light-filled," "creative" and "positive." This start to the day was only a taste of what was to come.

Sophomore Olivia Johnston, a business major, said the purpose behind the event was to encourage one another in their unique talents and gifts.

"I think the heart of Rekindle is just to encourage and champion each other to be the best we can be," Johnston said.

Those who led the event collaborated with their unique talents to create something for all women to enjoy and be a part of. Some sang, some performed spoken word, some welcomed and some led breakouts. It was a way for all who were involved to encourage others in their individuality and their uniqueness.

Just as the event began on Friday night with music, it ended on Saturday on a similar note: with a dance party. Rekindle was designed to be a fun festivity, celebrating dreams and passions and bringing the women of GC together.

Some students even visited from



Kendal Patterson / Contributing Photographer

Rekindle brings students together.

other universities, such as KSU student Ellie Harrison: "[Rekindle] connects girls and inspires us to use our gifts in things that we love and shows us that our dreams are important."



Kate Hensley / Contributing Photographer

Sophomore Caroline Conner leads a breakout session.



Few albums could embody the beauty of an entire country in the way Sigur Rós does on "Agaetis Byrjun." The album ranges from indigenous mythological tradition to eruptive chorales that echo through Iceland's landscape.

On "Olsen Olsen," a careful listener can hear an entire town singing. The sonic waves move listeners past volcanoes, geysers and fields of lava. The album is a series of escalating tensions and long, satisfying releases, engaging all of the senses.

Sigur Rós defies postmodern principles with this album. It cannot be labeled as post-rock, orchestral

or even alternative.

The music on "Agaetis Byrjun" functions as well through headphones as it would in an opera house, with songs like "Svefn-G-Englar" utilizing chamber instruments, wires, piano, flutes and even feedback to create the sounds of a mythological people that live in the forgotten landscapes of Iceland.

The album cover is an illustration of an alien baby, meant to pay homage to the mythological "hidden people" who have occupied Icelandic folklore since the country's ancient origins.

The album itself is said to model the life cycle. It begins with

a feeling of crushing liquids and uneasiness, then takes you from creation to silence. The Icelandic folklore manifests itself through melodic sequences that frequent the album.

There is never a dull moment on "Agaetis Byrjun." The lyrics are sung in Hopelandish, a language invented for the album. The writers felt that words fail to describe Iceland's beauty.

It's a purely musical album. In order to fully experience this monument in music, it would be a disservice to the listener to not fully listen, in high quality, with your eyes closed, undisturbed.

**By Benjamin
Monckton**

A letter to the editor: Hungry for hummus

The vegan-vegetarian section of The Max is despicable.

I used to frequent all of the Max's food stations, but recent health concerns forced me to restrict my visits to only the salad and stir-fry stations.

A committed carnivore, I used to shun the vegan-vegetarian section, but a vegan diet seemed like a sure-fire way to make my doctor smile at my next lab results.

So during one of my recent trips to the vegan-vegetarian section, I sampled a mystery dish. It was cold, lumpy, and composed of small particles that might have

been rice.

And it tasted like vomit.

I mean it actually tasted like that moment when vomit is coming up my throat, and I have no way to stop it.

I am easy to please when it comes to food, but the colorless mush routinely served in that section has surpassed the outer limits of my tolerance.

This hummus lover hopes the Max's chefs will devote as much attention to the chickpeas and couscous as to the fried chicken and macaroni and cheese.

Sincerely,
Emily McClure

Thrifting for spring trends

**Florrie
McCard**

Contributing Writer

As February drew to a close, Milledgeville temperatures began to rise. While some students are still mourning the loss of scarves and sweaters, there is no denying that spring style is on the way.

GC style is all about the individual. Long gone are the days when outfits were judged based on the price, brand or conforming with the “cool” crowd. This spring, students are looking to their favorite thrift shops to find as many high waisted skirts and pastel tops as their budgets will allow.

There are certain college campuses, like The University of the South in Sewanee, TN, where dressing up for class is the culture and even policy. GC, however, is not one of these campuses. This means that students who dare to do something other than a t-shirt and shorts are easy to spot and often

faced with the question, “Why are you so dressed up?”

Junior Sami Montigny, a studio art major, is one such student. She says that spring is her favorite season, loving nothing more than the vibrant colors and fun skirts permitted by warmer weather. An avid thrift store shopper, Montigny reports that under eight dollars is her prime price range for clothes that express her style without breaking the bank.

“I recognize that I, quote-unquote, dress up more than others, just because I’m trying to utilize the clothes that I own,” Montigny said. “Whereas a lot of people are, you know, shorts and t-shirts, and that’s okay, you’re allowed to do that. But why wouldn’t you just wear something fun?”

Junior Erin Olivia Dickman, a liberal studies major, looks towards business casual streetwear for her inspiration. Sneakers, high-waisted jeans, tucked-in shirts and a trench coat are a few of the keys to her wardrobe success. Her look revolves around these staple pieces,

but with the arrival of spring, she plans to incorporate more pastel crop tops.

“When I am looking to actually purchase clothes rather than rotate what I actually own, I am looking for new sneakers, high-waisted plaid pants, short skirts and striped tops,” Dickman said. “I have also played around with the idea of the relaxed, preppy-look button-downs and collared shirts but in a less stiff manner.”

Much like Montigny, she is also a firm believer in the thrift store.

“When I am thrifting, I find that I am more likely to buy something for how it looks on me rather than the brand,” Dickman said. “I will also be willing to try more eccentric pieces on without the motivation from in-store marketing that you face in any other private company.”

Students like junior Mariah Wall, a psychology major, are skilled in striking a balance between the prevalent comfort style of GC with her own personal touch.

My closet is really like a magnet, there are two polar opposite styles



Hannah Tyson / Contributing Photographer

Junior Mariah Wall shows off her cute-comfy style.

that dictate my wardrobe choices,” Wall said. “On one hand, I enjoy showcasing my femininity with skirts and sundresses...As far as the other end of my style is concerned, I love going for comfort.”

Wall’s favorites are floral patterns, the color yellow and denim skirts. If she’s shopping in downtown Milledgeville, she always ends up at French Vill’Edge. If she’s looking for the comfort of an oversized sweater, she heads straight to Goodwill. Doing what she does best, Mariah hopes to combine both sides of her style this spring.

“I think my favorite spring outfit is going to be a denim skirt with my favorite yellow sweater tucked in,” Wall said. “And of course, some comfortable booties to complete the look.”

It’s no coincidence that all three of these stylish GC women rock

glasses almost every day.

Contacts are all about conforming. Glasses make a statement. The consensus is clear: glasses are both practical and trendy!

The glasses trend defies gender. Junior Matthew Sampson, a French major, describes his style as versatile, ranging from urban street style to basic frat boy. His clothes may change, but his glasses are always a signature part of his look: “They can be used to express yourself, to show off your style, and even add to it.”

If you’re looking for new looks to rock this spring, don’t be intimidated by the t-shirt and shorts majority. Just head to your closest thrift store, dust off your glasses and practice your answer to the question: “Why are you so dressed up?”



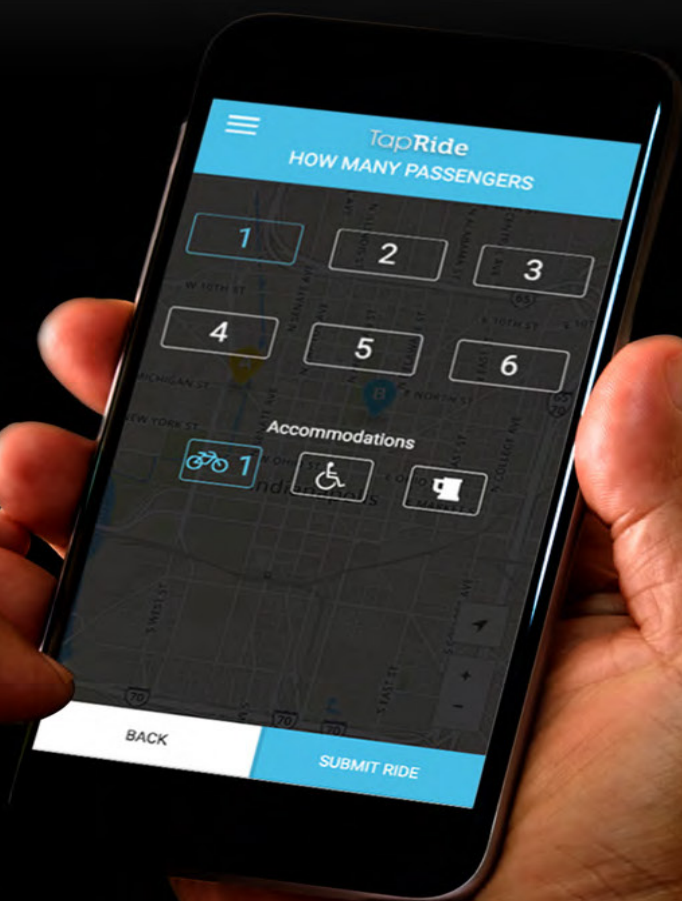
Peyton Sanders/ Contributing Photographer

Junior Erin Dickman poses in her thrifted outfit.

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